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## TRANSPORTATION

### Addison council stalls over choice

Members fail to decide on election on whether to leave DART system

By **LILLY KERSH**  
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Breaking from a pattern among North Texas suburbs, Addison's town council could not agree on scheduling an election to leave Dallas Area Rapid Transit, citing a need for more public input and negotiations with the public transportation system.

At a special council meeting on Tuesday night in Addison, several motions failed or died after hours of heated debate and passionate public comment, but leaders did not reach a decision on when or whether to ask voters if the town should exit DART. Council members considered postponing their discussion but ultimately could not come to an agreement.

"I want us, as the council, I want staff to have a lot of really good conversations with DART," said Addison Mayor

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#### BACKGROUND DART facts

**DART MEMBERS:** The transit agency serves 13 member cities: Addison, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Glenn Heights, Highland Park, Irving, Plano, Richardson, Rowlett and University Park.

**REVENUE:** In the 2024 fiscal year, DART had \$851.8 million in sales tax revenue. Sales tax revenue represents about 70% of DART's overall budget. Other revenue sources include fares, federal funds, interest and borrowing.

**CONTRIBUTIONS:** Dallas contributes the most sales tax to DART — more than \$423 million in the 2023 fiscal year, according to agency documents. Next are Plano at \$116 million and Irving at \$103 million.

Lilly Kersh

### Dallas to DART: 'Help us help you'

Council urges embattled agency to bolster efforts and expand services

By **DEVYANI CHHETRI**  
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As North Texas cities contemplate leaving the Dallas Area Rapid Transit system, Dallas leaders are imploring the public transportation agency: "Can you please help us help you?"

Council member Lorie Blair's gentle query to Dallas Area Rapid Transit officials Tuesday marked the role Dallas — which constitutes 75% of the ridership — is going to play in the embattled transit agency's future.

In the past month, Highland Park, Farm-

ers Branch, Irving and Plano approved elections in May for voters to decide whether to stay or leave the system. At a special town council meeting to vote on holding a similar election, Addison on Tuesday could not agree on scheduling one. Each city has argued its 1-cent sales tax contributions far exceed the services it receives in return. The cities also question the 13-member transit agency's governance model based on population, which gives Dallas more representation.

If they prevail in the elections, cities would

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## Chomping at the bit for college



Juan Figueroa/Staff Photographer

**Duncanville High football player Kevin "KJ" Ford Jr.** helped his dad, Kevin Ford Sr., with his Gator chomp while posing with his mom, Shan-non Ford, on Wednesday. Ford Jr. signed to play at the University of Florida. The college football early signing period for high school recruits started Wednesday and runs through Friday. **(Coverage in SportsDay)**

## WASHINGTON

### Trump pardons Cuellar

South Texas congressman, a Democrat, and wife were to face bribery trial in April

By **MARIANA ALFARO, KADIA GOBA and MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR**  
The Washington Post

President Donald Trump on Wednesday pardoned Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar of Texas, unexpectedly ending the prosecution of a member of the opposing party.

Cuellar, one of the most conservative Democrats in the House, was charged last year with bribery, money laundering and conspiracy. Trump also pardoned Cuellar's wife, Imelda, who also had been charged. He and his wife were scheduled to stand

trial in April for the combined dozen charges. The 54-page indictment of Henry and Imelda Cuellar detailed a bold corruption scheme in which Cuellar is accused of promising to wield his power as a U.S. congressman to advocate for his benefactors.

Cuellar has repeatedly said he and his wife are innocent. In response to Trump's pardon announcement, he said the president's decision "clears the air and lets us move forward for South Texas."

"I want to thank President Trump for his tremendous leadership and for taking the time to look at the facts. I thank God for standing with my family and I during this difficult time," Cuellar said in a statement re-



HENRY CUELLAR

## AUSTIN

### Handful of new Texas laws set to take effect

By **SARAH BAHARI**  
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A flurry of new laws will go into effect in Texas in the coming weeks. More than 800 laws from this year's legislative session already took effect on Sept. 1. Dozens more are set to become law in December and Jan-

Several covering health, education, politics do so today

uary, bringing changes to health, education and taxes. Here's a look at some of the notable new laws.

#### Sex and health

**Abortion pills.** A new law allows

regular citizens to file civil lawsuits against anyone who ships abortion pills into Texas or distributes the pills within the state. If a pregnant woman or one of her family members successfully sues under the bill, they would receive a payout of at

least \$100,000. If any other person successfully sues, they would be required to donate the bulk of the payout to a charity. Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Allen, who authored the bill, said it protects mothers and unborn babies, but opponents say the law cre-

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## Rain and drizzle, colder

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## NATION & WORLD

### Hegseth faces questions on use of military force

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth is confronting questions about the use of military force after a special operations team reportedly attacked survivors of a strike on an alleged drug boat off Venezuela. **4A**

## BUSINESS

### Cowboys-Chiefs game no turkey for NFL, CBS

The Cowboys-Chiefs game on Thanksgiving drew the largest audience ever to watch a regular-season NFL game. **3B**

## AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

### Robotaxis arrive — driver may not be included

Beginning this week, calling an Uber may result in unusual ride

By **SASHA RICHIE**  
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Autobots, roll out. When you call an Uber, you may be matched with an autonomous robotaxi, thanks to the rideshare platform's partnership with Avride. The service started Wednesday.

To get a ride from the robots, you just call an Uber, as normal. The fleet of autonomous Hyundai Ioniq 5s are integrated into the service's person-driven fleet, and you will be notified if one is assigned to your ride.

In the Uber app, riders have the ability to decline an autonomous ride when offered or, for the adventurous, increase their odds of getting one, in settings.

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Rick Kern

**An Avride autonomous vehicle** that is part of Uber's robotaxi fleet drove by Klyde Warren Park in downtown Dallas. On Wednesday, Uber began autonomous robotaxi rides in Dallas through Avride.